

# GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM UPDATE



*House Armed Services Committee -- Representative Duncan Hunter, Chairman*

October 23, 2003

## Major Progress in Northern Iraq

### IN REMEMBRANCE



*Former Marine barracks in Lebanon*

Twenty years ago today, 241 U.S. servicemen were killed by a suicide terrorist bomber at the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon. The attack killed 241 Marine, Navy and Army servicemen.

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"The terrorists have cited the examples of Beirut and Somalia, claiming that if you inflict harm on Americans we will run from a challenge. In this they are mistaken," - **President George Bush** said this week.



Major General David Petraeus, Commander of the 101st Airborne Division, said Wednesday that he would be reducing the number of U.S. soldiers in this northern city and turn their security duties over to Iraqi police officers and troops as local government takes root and life slowly returns to normal.

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**Mosul, in northern Iraq, is the nation's third largest city.**

The 101st has won over the regional population by engaging in community relations and building a solid basis for long-term stability in the area.

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### TALKING POINTS

Remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime and terrorists from foreign countries are making a desperate stand in Iraq. Coalition forces are confronting them on the streets of Baghdad and elsewhere throughout Iraq.

Coalition forces have conducted hundreds of raids and thousands of patrols, seizing caches of enemy weapons and massive amounts of ammunition that can no longer be used against our troops or innocent civilians.

The Coalition has made sure that Saddam Hussein will never again use weapons of mass destruction. To reveal the full extent of the weapons program, the Iraq Survey Group is interviewing Iraqi citizens, examining physical evidence, and analyzing records of the old regime.

ISG's recent progress report states: "We have discovered dozens of WMD-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations during the inspections that began in late 2002."

In Ninevah, a northwestern province which includes the city of Mosul, Iraqis recently chose a governing council through a process developed by the 101st. Two-hundred and seventy delegates, including Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens, Yezidis and Shabaks were selected.

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*Reps. Gresham Barrett, Baron Hill, Tom Cole and Vic Snyder at the 101st Army Airborne HQ. The Members were presented with 101st Airborne soccer balls - the division sponsors 160 soccer teams in northern Iraq.*

## ***News from Sudan***

A Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa United States military aircraft, on a logistics support mission, landed in Sudan recently. It was the first time an American aircraft has landed in Sudan in ten years.

The C-130 transported CJTF-HOA service members to Khartoum International Airport where it was met by a number of Sudanese military officers.

The opportunity for our personnel to visit Sudan highlights progress toward improving the overall relationship between

the U.S. and Sudan. The deterioration of the relationship began in 1989 when several terrorist organizations found Sudan to be a safe haven, and Osama Bin Laden lived there from 1993 to approximately 1996.

Lately, Sudan has also been proactive in the global war against terrorism, working to deny terrorists safe havens and means to operate. The government recently jailed Hassan Turabi, the Sudanese leader, who in 1993, allowed Bin Laden and other terrorists to operate here.

### ***Rumsfeld Memo Challenges Pentagon to Outsmart Terrorists***

An Oct. 16 memo by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was aimed at getting people to think beyond day-to-day tasks and answer basic questions about the global war on terrorism and the department's roles.

Rumsfeld asked 14 questions in the page-and-a-half memo.

"The way we do business is, our boss is challenging us with a lot of questions on...are we changing ourselves to deal with this 21st century threat environment we find ourselves in?" said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Myers.

### ***To Quote:***

**"Someone asked me if you believe the prize we seek is worth the price we have to pay. I said, 'You bet.' The prize we seek is another 200-plus years of freedom in this country. In the next 3, 4, 5, years, we are going to be crafting the next 200 years of American history."**

**- General Tommy Franks (Ret.)**

## CODEL Quotes:

"I think we are all more optimistic about the ability of the Iraqi people to pull it all together. Particularly in the North, there is real progress being made politically and otherwise. They are proving different ethnic groups can work together. Finally, we all agree that we must succeed in rebuilding and stabilizing Iraq for our own security. Failure is not an option."  
– **Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX)** commenting on the CODEL he led to Iraq this week.

"It was quite a remarkable trip, sobering and inspiring at the same time. I came back absolutely convinced we had done the right thing in terms of taking out Saddam Hussein's regime."

"We need a larger military so they're not there as long, so there are more people coming in and out. We'll have to rethink our force structure. If you don't do that, then over time there could be a grinding down of the American military."  
– **Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)**

"A lot more progress has been made over there than I expected. The commanding generals are really impressive people, not just as military leaders, but as leaders period."

"They were not complaining, but they said life would be more bearable if they had a date certain on a calendar," said – **Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)**

"The battle has been won. Now the challenge is to secure the peace and move towards an Iraqi democratic government. The commanders we spoke with seemed to understand this very well." – **Del. Madeleine Bordallo (GU)**



*Rep. Mike Rogers at the Jaresh Primary School in Baghdad this week. Shiite and Sunni children attend classes together at this school, which was recently rebuilt.*

"They know that Saddam's weapons program has been reported to Congress by Dr. Kay, yet stressed to me that even if weapons of mass destruction had not been found, the Iraqi people deserve to be free from Saddam's terror." – **Rep. Steve King (R-IA)** on his visit with soldiers in Iraq this week.

"I think the one thing I would like to share...with the folks back home is how very proud I am of the service of their husbands, sons and daughters. This is not an easy situation to be in and they are showing remarkable flexibility and ingenuity in accomplishing their mission. I am very proud to represent each and every one of them." – **Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT)** on meeting with soldiers from Connecticut.

"I'm happy to report that the troops' morale is high – they are proud of what they're doing and want to continue the job of fostering democracy in Iraq." – **Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN)**

"The vast majority of Iraqis are trying very hard to make the country a safer place to live. The U.S. soldiers we spoke to had good morale and were focused on their mission. And our allies greeted us warmly and gave us strong signs of support and cooperation in rebuilding Iraq." – **Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ)**

*All information in this issue is unclassified. Sources include Department of Defense and media reports.*